In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein deriving the distance measure

2   including deriving a relative distance measure between the at least two signal

3   portions by distributing the signal attributes over the at least two signal portions.

1   3.   The method of claim 2, including:

2   receiving training speech data including noise components and

3   the at least two signal portions;

4   combining the signal attributes of the at least two signal

5   portions into a signal content and combining the signal and noise attributes of

6   the at least two signal portions into a signal and noise content;

7   calculating a compensation ratio of the signal and noise content

8   to the signal content in order to derive the relative distance measure; and

9   adjusting a mismatch indicative of a noise differential between

10   the noise components present in the training speech data and the noise

11   attributes present in the at least two signal portions based on the relative

12   distance measure.

1   5.   The method of claim 4, including compensating the model in

2   response to the relative distance measure while applying a parallel model

3   combination mechanism.

1   12.   The article of claim 11, further storing instructions that enable the

2   processor-based system to:

3   derive the distance measure by determining a relative distance

4   measure between the at least two signal portions to distribute the signal

5   attributes over the at least two signal portions.

1   13.   The article of claim 12, further storing instructions that enable the

2   processor-based system to:

3   receive training speech data including noise components and the at

4   least two signal portions;

5   combine the signal attributes of the at least two signal portions into

6   a signal content and combine the signal and noise attributes of the at least two

7   signal portions into a signal and noise content;

8   calculate a compensation ratio of the signal and noise content to

9   the signal content in order to derive the relative distance measure; and
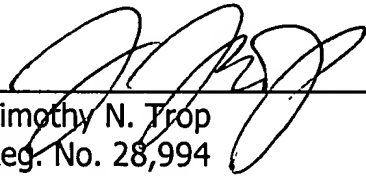
10   adjust a mismatch indicative of a noise differential between the

11   noise components present in the training speech data and the noise attributes

12   present in the at least two signal portions based on the relative distance

13   measure.

1   15.   The article of claim 14, further storing instructions that enable the

2   processor-based system to compensate the model in response to the relative

3   distance measure while applying a parallel model combination mechanism.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

2 a storage unit including an authentication database, said

3 storage unit coupled to the control unit to store training speech data in the

4 authentication database, wherein the control unit to:

5 derive the distance measure from a relative distance measure

6 between the at least two signal portions by distributing the signal attributes

7 over the at least two signal portions.

8 receive training speech data including noise components and

9 the at least two signal portions to calculate a mismatch indicative of a noise

10 differential between the noise components present in the training speech

11 data and the noise attributes present in the at least two signal portions;

12 combine the signal attributes of the at least two signal portions

13 into a signal content and combining the signal and noise attributes of the at

14 least two signal portions into a signal and noise content to calculate a

15 compensation ratio of the signal and noise content to the signal content; and

16 adjust the mismatch with the compensation ratio in order to assess the

17 speech based on the relative distance measure.

Respectfully submitted,

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